



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus —

The Wetland Reserve Program in Iowa is focused on restoring wetlands on two wetland settings, prairie potholes and riverine wetlands. The first focus is within the 35 county Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) area in the northern part of the State. Over 98 percent of agricultural uses and are heavily farmed. The PPJV wetlands are important for migratory bird habitat. Threefourths of the State's riverine wetlands, which are an important part of the migratory flyway system, have also been drained for agricultural uses. Maximum wildlife, water quality and public benefits can be achieved from restoration efforts.

These wetland restoration areas can provide significant benefits to rare and declining habitats and wildlife species, since many of the imperiled plant and animal species are aquatically based or wetland dependent.



Iowa Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements. The major objectives of the Wetland Reserve Program are to:

- Provide technical assistance to eligible landowners in developing and implementing wetland conservation plans.
- Provide financial assistance to eligible landowners in restoring and protecting wetland and riparian areas to provide wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits.

Accomplishments

In FY 2001 Iowa received \$7,909,280 that funded 3,899 acres in 35 WRP contracts. Of the 35 contracts, there were 28 permanent easements, one 30-year easement, and six cost-share agreements. Since the program began in the State in 1992, Iowa has enrolled a total of 365 permanent easements comprising 41,064 acres; thirty-five 30-year easements covering more than 3,486 acres; and twenty-eight cost-share agreements covering 430 acres.

Should funding becomes available for WRP, NRCS anticipates the program will remain successful. The program has generated a great deal of landowner interest. Currently the WRP backlog of unfunded applications includes 400 applications with an estimated value of \$72 million for easements on approximately 40,000 acres.

Program Benefits

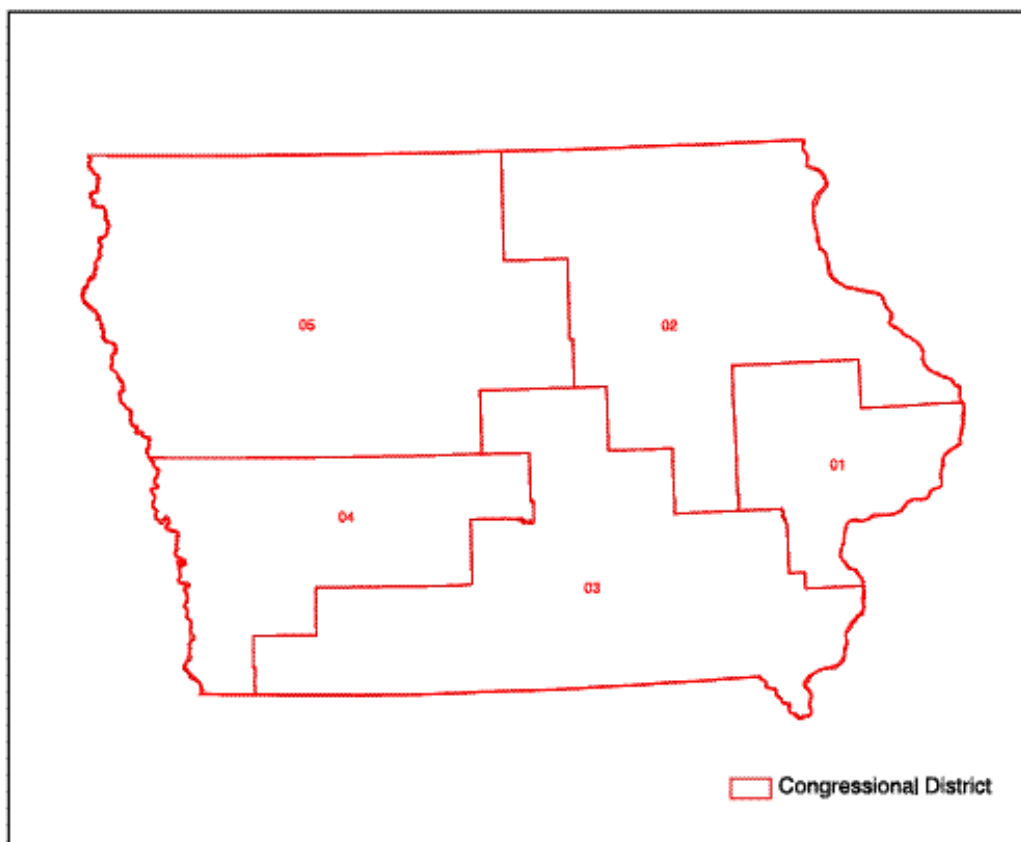
WRP is implemented through a partnership consisting of: the NRCS, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, county governments, and several environmental and wildlife organizations, these partners provides program participants with technical and financial assistance to:

- Restore wetland and riparian habitats critical to migratory and other wildlife.
- Provide floodplain protection and flood damage reduction.
- Improve water quality.

State contact

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Iowa Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Iowa Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$73,495	2	\$676,247	6
District 2	\$112,147	5	\$7,023,151	50
District 3	\$84,512	1	\$12,223,296	48
District 4	\$453,258	1	\$5,869,700	15
District 5	\$7,186,868	26	\$21,620,689	115
State Totals	\$7,910,280	35	\$47,413,083	234

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